

Message Text

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU

SUBJ: TURKISH IMMIGRATION TO CYPRUS

REF: (A) ANKARA 1059, (B) 75 NICOSIA 3315, (C) STATE 037503 (NOTAL)

1. WE HAVE IN OUR REPORTING TO DATE ON TURKISH IMMIGRATION INTO NORTHERN CYPRUS FOCUSED ON THE FACT AND EXTENT OF THE IMMIGRATION RATHER THAN ON MOTIVATIONS AND AUTHORITIES BEHIND IT. WE HAVE INDICATED THAT THERE ARE SERIOUS OBSTACLES TO OBTAINING INFORMATION ON IMMIGRATION; THAT IT REMAINS A TABOO SUBJECT WHICH OFFICIALS HERE ARE RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS; THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF TURKS COMING TO CYPRUS; THAT THEIR MOTIVATIONS VARY; THAT MANY HAVE RETURNED TO THE MAINLAND; AND THAT ONLY TIME WILL TELL HOW TEMPORARY MOST OF THE IMMIGRANTS ARE.

2. WHILE WE HAVE NO HARD EVIDENCE LINKING THE GOT WITH THE IMMIGRATION OF NON-CYPRIOI TURKS TO NORTHERN CYPRUS,
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THE PATTERN OF INFORMATION WE DO HAVE MAKES IT

DIFFICULT TO AVOID THE CONCLUSION THAT AT A MINIMUM THE GOT IS PERMITTING AND FACILITATING SUCH IMMIGRATION. THIS IS NOT REPEAT NOT TO SAY THAT THE GOT HAS A CONSCIOUS POLICY OF CHANGING THE DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTER OF THE ISLAND THROUGH THE PERMANENT COLONIZATION OF NON-CYPRIOT TURKS. FROM THE NICOSIA PERSPECTIVE, WE SIMPLY DO NOT KNOW AT THIS POINT HOW PERMANENT THE IMMIGRATION IS OR WHAT TURKEY'S LONG-RANGE INTENTIONS ARE.

3. WE DO KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT:

(A) AT LEAST 10,000 -- AND WE SUSPECT MORE -- TURKISH IMMIGRANTS HAVE SETTLED IN NORTHERN CYPRUS UNDER THE IMMEDIATE SUPERVISION OF TURKISH CYPRIOT AUTHORITIES (PRIMARILY THE MINISTRY OF LABOR, REHABILITATION, AND SOCIAL WELFARE). THEY HAVE ARRIVED IN GROUPS ON GOVERNMENT-OPERATED BOATS; BEEN HOUSED TEMPORARILY IN GOVERNMENT QUARTERS; TRANSPORTED IN GROUPS TO SPECIFIC VILLAGES; ALLOCATED HOUSING; AND ASSISTED FINANCIALLY. AS REPORTED REF B, SOME IMMIGRANTS CLAIM THAT TURKEY PAID THEIR EXPENSES. ALL THIS, AS WELL AS OFFICIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF NEED FOR IMPORTED LABOR, SUGGESTS THE EXISTENCE OF A PROGRAM TO ENCOURAGE IMMIGRATION.

(B) THE GOT -- THROUGH ITS EMBASSY, THE TURKISH MILITARY FORCES ON THE ISLAND, AND THE BAYRAKTARLIK (COVERT MILITARY ORGANIZATION WHICH ANSWERS DIRECTLY TO TGS IN ANKARA) -- HAS A KEY IF NOT CONTROLLING VOICE IN ALL IMPORTANT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC MATTERS HERE. THIS CONTROL, WE ARE RELIABLY TOLD, IS MORE OR LESS FORMALIZED AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL IN A SECRET COMMITTEE OF THREE (COMPOSED OF TFSC PRESIDENT DENKTASH, TURKISH AMBASSADOR, AND THE BAYRAKTAR) WHICH REVIEWS MINISTERIAL AND LEGISLATIVE DECISIONS. IN THIS CONTEXT -- AND PARTICULARLY ON A MATTER WHICH COULD CAUSE EMBARRASSMENT FOR THE GOT -- IT IS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT PLANS AND POLICIES FOR HANDLING SUCH A LARGE INFLOW OF IMMIGRANTS COULD HAVE BEEN FORMULATED AND CARRIED OUT WITHOUT GOT COORDINATION AND APPROVAL.

(C) CONTINUING OFFICIAL EVASIVENESS ON IMMIGRATION QUESTION AND WIDESPREAD ASSUMPTION WITHIN THE TURKISH
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CYPRIOT COMMUNITY THAT GOT HAS HAD A HAND IN ENCOURAGING TURKISH IMMIGRATION, WHILE HARDLY CONCRETE EVIDENCE, REINFORCE SUSPICION THAT GOT IS MORE DEEPLY INVOLVED THAN ITS OFFICIAL LINE INDICATES.

4. ANKARA'S THOUGHTFUL CABLE (REF A) ON THE IMMIGRATION ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS THE POTENTIAL SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEM, AND WE SHALL CONTINUE TO DO WHAT WE CAN HERE, WITHIN

LIMITS IMPOSED ON US, TO DEVELOP INFORMATION ON THE
NUMBERS, LOCATION, AND TYPES OF IMMIGRANTS AND ON THE
EXTENT TO WHICH THE GOT IS INVOLVED.
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